is 1095 kms. and the estimated cost of development works is Rs. 542 Crore.

(c) and (d) No specific timeframe can be given in this regard at this stage.

New routes on National Highways network in Andhra Pradesh

1748. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have added eight new routes, consisting of 1551 kms. in various parts of the country to National Highway network;

(b) if so, the details of routes/roads that have been identified in the State of Andhra Pradesh and the number of kms. that are going to be added to the National Highway network in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the criteria adopted in identifying the eight new routes in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Recently eight new routes/roads have been declared as National Highways. No new National Highway in the State in Andhra Pradesh have been declared during this period. At present there is no proposal for declaration of National Highway in the country including Andhra Pradesh.

(c) One route has been declared as a National Highway as per the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court. Seven State roads meeting one or more criteria such as connecting important tourist and industrial centres, meeting strategic requirements, reducing travel distance and opening up of backward regions have been declared as National Highways in March and June, 2006.

Widening of NH No. 8

1749. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the approval of the project for widening the National Highway between Vadodara and Surat on NH No. 8 is still awaited from Government;